



Press Release

For immediate release

The Rhythms of the World Festival presents Cultural Harmony from September 7 to 11, 2005

Montreal, September 6, 2005 – For its 2nd Montreal edition, the **Rhythms of the World Festival** will be presenting Cultural Harmony as its theme from September 7th to the 11th in the Quartier International, downtown and its surroundings. The Rhythms of the World Festival offers a unique program by encompassing three art forms – performing arts, visual arts and culinary arts – that will comprise days of events corresponding to 4 continents – Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. The fifth and final day which will pay tribute to Cultural Harmony is an open-air day for the whole family to enjoy.

Among the many notable events, the **evening shows at the House of Jazz** from September 7th to the 11th are worthy of mention. The artists that will be featured on those days are Sara Franco and her rendition of music of the world followed by Beat in Fractions accompanied by the Asian flute and percussion on the opening night of September 7th; the Greek grooves of Rude Beats and the Armenian inspired jazz of the Arden Arapyan Ensemble on September 8th; Wesley and the African Project will showcase their African rhythms and Harold Faustin with his special guest Samina will present a subtle blend of West Indian jazz reminiscent of soul, blues and Latin music on September 9th; the Joé Armando Ensemble and their lively rhythms infused with salsa, rumba and cumbia as well as Los Tumbadores and their traditional and modern Cuban rhythms will enthrall everyone on September 10th; and finally, on September 11th, Alex Bellegarde and his guests will unite to offer a beautiful fusion of music and style through the blending of musicians from different cultural backgrounds. Tickets for all of these events will be available every evening at the door.

Other special events include **Happy Hours at restaurant Le Quartier** on September 7th and 9th. The cocktail for the opening day of the Festival on September 7th will present, as part of its day themed Asia, the Buddha lounge beats of DJ Mahesh, an art exhibition of artists Raymon Fong and Jean-Sébastien Robert, as well as a menu of Asian appetizers. On September 9th, Africa Day, the Happy Hour will feature Tranzit, a group that offers a fresh twist on Haitian music by combining jazz, compa, gospel, African and West Indian rhythms as well, an exhibition by artists Cheryl Daniel, Ralph « Tigus » Mingrette and Marie-Josée Primeau; and a menu of appetizing African delicacies. September 8th marks an important date, as the **Gala of Flavours** will be held on that day at the Centre Mont-Royal at 6 pm and is an evening during which the Velan Foundation Award will be presented. The evening also involves a unique four-course meal encompassing flavours of the world, a show by the dancers from the Arthur Murray Dance School and an exhibition by renowned artists such as Marc Séguin, Heidi Hollinger, Dana Velan, Michel Vermeulen and Marie-Josée Primeau.

As part of its visual arts program, the Rhythms of the World Festival **Art Fair and Exhibition** will be held at the TELUS Tower from the 7th to the 9th of September from 11am to 6pm. This occasion will allow young up and coming artists of ethnic origins to promote and sell their art through the showcasing of their paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs. From September 7th to 9th, from 11am to 5pm, **Gallery Week** features "Montréal – La Cosmopolite" at Studio 261 featuring the works of artists such as Jean-François André, Marc A.J. Fortier, Stéphanie Gervey, Jacques Léveillé, Georges Mamàn, André Schirmer, Nicole Taillon and Nicole Teulière-Ratti. The Simon Blais Gallery will present works by Serge Clément and Denis Juneau; the Art en Majuscule Gallery will showcase artists Michael Kudish, Daniel Kudish and Esther Hageman; the Hollinger Collins Gallery will present works by Kyle Beal, Bill Brandt, Steven James Brown, David Burdeny, Katyuska Doleatto, Roy Hartling, Thaddeus Holownia, Amy Huestis, Colin McNair, D Bradley Muir, Rosemary Scanlon, Verona Sorensen and Patrice Stanley; and finally, Gallery 1225 will present works by Tristan Tondino, Joseane Brullette, Galen Cheney, Richard Roblin, Jean-Louis Emond, Hélène Fleury and Remigio Valdés de Hoyos.

As for the culinary arts program, the Rhythms of the World will offer **lunch menus** from September 7th to 9th catering to the tastes of the world at restaurants Fourquet Fourchette and Le Quartier; and at the food court of Place Victoria where the Alex Bellegarde Invitation Series will present many different musicians during lunchtime. In the evenings, **dinner menus** will be offered from September 7th to 10th at Les Continents restaurant. Notable chef Christian Lévêque has concocted a menu allowing one to taste and discover international fusion cuisine. Other participating restaurants such as le Fourquet Fourchette and Le Quartier will accommodate thematic and table d'hôte menus catering to the tastes of the world.

To conclude the Festival, **Cultural Harmony Day** will be celebrated from 10 am to 6 pm at Place du Canada on the historic date of September 11th, a day on which people all over the world will be uniting to fight against terrorism and promote world peace. Children and parents are invited to participate at no charge in this multicultural day filled with activities including arts and crafts, dance, theater and cooking workshops. International sausages on the BBQ and exotic juices will be offered at affordable prices. The Afro-Brazilian percussion group Zuruba will entertain the crowd as of noon and at 3 pm the final show will feature the Rwandan dance troupe Isangano, Groupe Mireille Nohra and S.H.A.R.O.N with 3 Shades of Soul featuring Tamara Brown and their hybrid rhythms of soul, hip hop, funk and Caribbean.

The mission of the **Rhythms of the World Festival** is to foster understanding and harmony between cultures through socio-cultural activities permitting the development, promotion and diffusion of performing arts, visual arts and culinary arts.

Complete information on the website at www.rythmes.tv

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